

Career Options Beyond Academia

Liz Wilkinson,
Technē Careers Consultant

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SESSION OUTCOMES

- Career options in:
 - Public Policy
 - Creative Practice and Management
 - Education
 - Not for Profit

What questions should you be asking?

What activities improve your chances?


Where are opportunities advertised?

Career Options Beyond Academia

From 06/05/2021 12:30 to 06/05/2021 13:30

--- PLEASE NOW MARK YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS ACTIVITY ---

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Liz Wilkinson, Technē Careers Consultant

- 30 Years in Careers and Recruitment
- Former Director of Careers and Employability at Royal Holloway
- PGR Careers Lead at Kings College London
- Academic & Postgrad Careers Specialist



Contact via

4 techne.careers@careers.lon.ac.uk

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ACTIVITY: INTRODUCE YOURSELF

- Using the chat box, share your year of PhD study, your institution and summarise your discipline (s) in 2/3 words
- e.g. Year 3, Roehampton, Geography & Visual Art

Spelling etc doesn't matter in the chat box

Deliberately look for positives (balance the press)



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ACTIVITY: PICK TWO

1. Civil Service
2. Arts Advocacy and Fundraising
3. Schools Education
4. Think Tanks
5. Not for Profit Service Management
6. Other – type in quick description

Type into the chat box

SUBJECT/SKILLS/SECTOR

	LEADERSHIP ROLES	EXPERT ROLES
LEVERAGING YOUR PhD/ DIFFERENT SUBJECT FOCUS	Not for Profit/Civil Service Service Delivery	Think Tanks, Freelance Influencers, Technical Specialists
LEVERAGING YOUR PhD/RELATED SUBJECT FOCUS	Arts Management & Service Delivery	Creative Practitioners, Technical Experts, Education

ACTIVITY: Leveraging Your PhD skills

- What skills have you developed and enhanced through your PhD?

Type into the chat box

PhD: Common Transferable Skills

- Critical thinking and analytical skills
 - Data analysis – at scale and complexity
 - Creating interpretation, argument, meaning
 - Analysing impact
- Communication skills
 - Interviewing, writing, presenting
- Project Management & Problem Solving

National Archives: Records Specialist

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

- A higher degree (or demonstrable equivalent experience) in a field relevant to the work of the Early Modern team at The National Archives.
- Demonstrable knowledge of the 18th century collections at The National Archives with requisite palaeography skills.
- Active research profile and demonstrable credibility in the academic and research sectors relating to early modern history.
- Experience of and demonstrable commitment to communicating research through a variety of public engagement activities such as exhibitions, public talks, outreach workshops and educational activities.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and negotiation skills, and therefore able to interact well and build effective relationships and networks within organisation and externally.
- Ability to handle a varied and demanding workload, and to manage own priorities within a supportive team environment.

Crisis also creates opportunities



Organisations recruiting for change

“Creative England and the Creative Industries Federation joined forces in 2020, recognising that we will make a greater difference together than would be possible alone. Our overarching mission is to grow the nation’s creative economy and use the UK’s creativity to build a more prosperous, inclusive society....Together with members and industry partners we played a pivotal role in securing the £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund through our unique #OurWorldWithout campaign. This role is an opportunity to be a real game-changer, acting at the forefront of our external comms to implement high-impact campaigns to influence policy-makers, politicians and the general public.”

Creative Industries Federation: Policy & Public Affairs Officer, Advertised 23/9/20

Digital Disruption creates opportunities

Rising trend for Stats fans: Data Science/Data Analytics

“Data science...is about 'can we model the world — and use these models to make predictions,' while data analytics is more about extracting insights from big datasets. For example, 'we forecast the demand for oil will peak by 2030,' or 'the proportion of the world living in poverty has almost halved in the last 20 years' are both results from data analysis.”

Carl Howe, Director of Education, R Studio

<https://www.stitchdata.com/blog/career-in-data-analytics/>

Broaden Your Horizons: Civil Service

- Fast Stream entry (generally early autumn)
- Separate recruitment across departments
- Strong diversity agenda & competency based recruitment








"It's my job to understand new digital technology so their incredible possibilities can become reality and transform business, from tiny startups to big corporations. I guess in some ways you could say it's my job to speed up tomorrow."

Paul Driver

Policy Adviser - Emerging Technologies Team,
DCMS

<https://www.civil-service-careers.gov.uk/>

Broaden Your Horizons: HE Professional Services

Search All			Library Services & Information Management		144
Administrative		523	PR, Marketing, Sales & Communication		199
Finance		87	Property & Maintenance		90
Fundraising & Alumni		71	Senior Management		144
Hospitality, Retail, Conferences & Events		44	Sports & Leisure		4
Human Resources		66	Student Services		226
International Activities		34	Other		13
IT		107			

Snipped from
www.jobs.ac.uk
 11/11/20

Broaden Your Horizons: Charities

Sample Community Development Officer Role

We, at Volunteer Centre Hackney, have been providing support and guidance to many of these initiatives, and want to help these projects grow. We are committed to supporting local people to recognise their skills, ideas, and their experience and how they can use these to help others. Over the years, we have supported residents to host their own neighbourhood walking groups, a guerrilla gardening club, community meals, street parties, online wellbeing workshops, and an after-school club. We have linked residents to community organisations such as local youth clubs, to deliver coding workshops, or a theatre club or most recently, a digital buddy project.

We are working on estates and with GP surgeries, to engage local residents to come together to volunteer, to share their skills, to develop new project ideas and to build strong long communities. You will need to be passionate about working with local people, able to work independently and on your own initiative and resilient and confident to keep breaking through barriers, and making things happen.

Broaden Your Horizons: Think Tanks

New Local: Events & Networks Officer

- Our ideal candidate will be:
- A keen planner, whose strategic understanding and attention-to-detail is proven to keep projects timely and impactful.
- A developer and deliverer, who has experience of seeing through ideas from conception to completion.
- A systematic thinker, who understands the importance of an organised approach and excellent record-keeping.
- A good communicator, with excellent written and verbal communication skills
- A warm connector, with experience of building strong, supportive relationships inside and outside teams.
- Someone with the ability to prioritise, who is comfortable with an environment of autonomous working and competing demands.
- Driven by achieving change, both in terms of improving our own work and achieving New Local's broader political and societal goals.
- Flexible and collaborative, generous in offering expertise and keen to work adaptably and openly with other members of New Local's staff.
- Above all... we're looking for someone with an excellent work ethic, full of curiosity and diligence. Someone who will be optimistic, supportive and fun to work with, and never be afraid to pitch in with the rest of the team.

Advertised 26/11/20 <https://smarththinking.org.uk/job>

Public/NfP Sector: Improve Your Chances

- Get relevant experience in and out of HE
 - Data analysis
 - Empowering & including learners/users
 - Building partner relationships
 - Public engagement – organisation/communication skills
 - Digital skills – what can you do beyond MS Office?
- Keep up-to-date with HE/Public Policy trends
 - Wonkhe.com, The Guardian, Arts Council
 - Twitter can be good for emerging policy
 - Follow organisations of interest
- Network relevant professionals to get insights

Type into the chat box, any tips from your own experience

Careers & Creative Pivot : 5 STAGES

- STAGE 1 Map it out
- STAGE 2 What's in your careers & creative capital cupboard?
- STAGE 3 What's missing? What's new?
- STAGE 4 Talk to friends and make some new contacts
- STAGE 5 Creating a new, forward-facing narrative

ACTIVITY: What conversational themes do I find engaging NOW?

My research	My creative practice	Developing new skills	What's changing in my preferred professional sectors	Where I can find: £ Space Opportunities

Type into the chat box – some questions/themes you would like to talk about **outside academia**

Who could I talk to differently?

Already warm	Could be warmed up
Friends/Family	Friends of friends/Family of friends
Fellow students	Alumni
Colleagues/former colleagues	People working for an organisation I'm interested in
Supervisor & other academics	Academics in other units researching in my field
WHAT NEW QUESTIONS COULD I BE BRINGING TO THESE CONVERSATIONS?	HOW CAN I GET ON THEIR RADAR IN A LOW KEY WAY AND STRIKE UP CONVERSATION?

ACTIVITY: Deepening the talk with warm contacts

Who are they

Already warm contacts

Friends and family

Fellow students

Colleagues and former colleagues

Supervisors & other academics

Type in ideas of new themes/questions you could discuss with warm contacts

What new questions could you ask?

- Supervisor: talk about your longer term career development
- Friend: ask for cheerleading on exploring new professional options
- Former colleague: touch base on how organisation is responding to Covid-19

Sometimes we need to reach out to strangers

- Select a useful and interesting individual
- Make an initial contact e.g. social media PM
- Focus on the aim of just setting up a virtual meeting e.g. informal Zoom chat – keep it light and not over specific
- Compliment specifically e.g. *I loved your TED talk on XXX, I found your article on XXXX*
- Make the link between you both clear e.g. *This links to my research on XXXX, reminded me of my experience doing XXX*
- Tentatively ask to virtually meet e.g. *Could we arrange a brief video call about me gaining professional exposure to xxx, Might it be ok to have phone call to deepen my understanding of XXXX*
- **USE YOUR PhD & TECHNE STATUS TO OPEN DOORS – SEIZE THE MOMENT**

Informational Interviews: TIARA

		Sample question
T	Trends	What trend is most significant for your area now?
I	Insights	What surprises you most about how your work is developing?
A	Advice	If you were me what would you be doing right now, to best prepare for a career in this field?
R	Resources	What resources should I be sure to look into next?
A	Assignments	What's been your favourite project so far?

Adapted from Steve Dalton, The 2 Hour Job Search

PRESENTING A NEW NARRATIVE

- Forward-facing
- Positive
- Coherent

“I am developing my expertise in X in response to the changes in Y and I am looking for contacts/experience in Z”

In summary

- PhD thinking skills and credibility adds punch to many expert & leadership roles
- Careers research and aligning the added extra volunteer/short-term experience helps you pivot
- In many roles, data analysis and digital skills are increasingly important

WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP?

Type into the Chat Box

Best sites for career research & job hunting

Cultural & arts jobs : <http://www.artsjobs.org.uk/arts-jobs-listings/>

Art residencies: <https://www.artquest.org.uk/opportunities/>

Craft residencies: <https://www.craftscouncil.org.uk/maker-support/opportunities>

Heritage sector: <http://www.museumjobs.com/>

Civil Service jobs: <https://www.civil-service-careers.gov.uk/>

Cultural, charity & education: <https://jobs.theguardian.com/>

Think Tanks: <https://smarththinking.org.uk>

HE Professional Services: <https://www.jobs.ac.uk>

Mainstream education jobs: <https://www.tes.com/jobs/>

Good range of job profiles working across sectors:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

Resources

www.beyondthephd.co.uk/

The screenshot shows the homepage of the website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with buttons for Home, Audio, Profiles, Articles, Videos, and Links. To the right of the menu is a search bar with the text "Search site by keyword" and a "Go" button. Below the navigation menu, the main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a section titled "Beyond the PhD - What next after the PhD?" with a link "More about this site...". Below this is a section titled "Also browse by..." with three sub-sections: "Profiles" (with a silhouette icon), "Articles" (with an open book icon), and "Videos" (with a camera icon). In the center, there is a large image of a vintage radio with a speaker grille. To the right of the radio is a section titled "Top rated clips" with a five-star rating. Below this title is a list of five clips, each with a play button icon and a brief description. On the far right, there are two green call-to-action boxes. The top one is titled "What do you think of this site?" and has a "Feedback" button. The bottom one is titled "Help us to promote this website" and has a "Learn more" button.

Home Audio Profiles Articles Videos Links

Beyond the PhD...
Search site by keyword Go

Beyond the PhD - What next after the PhD?

[More about this site...](#)

Also browse by...

Profiles **Articles** **Videos**

Top rated clips ★★★★★

- ▶ 1. Russell - coping with uncertainty during and after the PhD
- ▶ 2. Joanne - commissioning editor
- ▶ 3. Colin - moving into an academic post
- ▶ 4. Liz - employer attitudes to the PhD
- ▶ 5. Laura - moving into an academic post

Search by category or keyword for audio clips of interviews with people talking about their PhD experiences and subsequent careers.

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- 1:1 Career Coaching Slots available every month for Techne students techne.careers@careers.lon.ac.uk

Check out what's also available from your home uni careers service

Your feedback strengthens the Techne careers service

Take the long view

In 2030, what will you be glad you did in 2021


- Completed/Progressed your PhD?
- Added another income earning string to your bow?
- Developed your creative/intellectual practice?
- Improved your digital skills?
- Improved your health/stress management?
- Experimented with something different?

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Thanks and see you soon

